

sign because they cannot get the appropriations bills out of the House of Representatives. They cannot get agreement among the Republicans in the House or the Republicans in the House and in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, if most Americans worked as few days as this Republican Congress, they would be fired. Their employers would ask for their money back. Maybe that is what the public ought to do is fire the Republican Congress.

#### REPUBLICANS PASSED 21 INITIATIVES GIVING GREATER CONTROL TO LOCAL EDUCATION

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as I look back over the last 2 years, one thing is very clear. The Republican majority in the House and Senate has given a 21-gun salute to education, passing 21 initiatives to give greater local control to local education and put dollars in the classroom. While the Democrats want to put more money in Washington bureaucracy, we want the dollars to the classroom. In fact, 30 cents on the dollars today that we appropriate here in Washington stay in Washington on government bureaucracy. Thanks to this Republican Congress we now have the lowest loan rates for student loans in 17 years. We have been doubled that the last 3 years the amount of Pell grant, grant money to help low-income students go on to college, and we provided \$500 million more this year for special education.

Earlier this year, just 2 weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed an effort to save Social Security and to help education. Found it very interesting that the President called our efforts to make prepaid college tuition programs tax exempt, to help with school construction costs, the President calls that squandering that extra tax revenue and squandering the surplus.

It is interesting our effort to help schools with the tax cut plan would have cost \$7 billion in surplus. Our President wants to spend twice as much, \$14 billion, on defense spending, the State Department and a computer fix for government bureaucrats.

#### PRESIDENT RAISING BIG DOLLARS IN PALM BEACH FOR TV ADS THAT DO NOT TELL THE TRUTH

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative from Palm Beach County joining the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) also representing Palm Beach, we are quite surprised that the President would assume that the negotiations to continue the good work of

this Congress would be held in the island of Palm Beach. CLAY SHAW and I stayed here to work on the people's problems. We are here throughout the weekend to solve the budget crisis. Regrettably the President and, I understand, the Vice President are traveling to Palm Beach, Florida to raise more money. In fact, the chairman of the Florida State Democratic Party suggested that they should probably not come because they were bleeding all of the dollars out of the State and bringing them here to Washington, D.C.

So let us understand what this is all about, not about working, not about saving this Nation, not about helping our children, not about helping education. It is about going down to Palm Beach, Florida, a place that I love, to raise big dollars to come back and assault the integrity of the American public with more money on TV ads that do not tell the truth.

So, if the President wants to solve the government's problems, stay in Washington tomorrow, work through the weekend, like we are. We can make some significant gains for the American taxpayers.

#### HOW MEAN HAS THIS COUNTRY GOTTEN?

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this Sunday afternoon here in Washington with, like the rest of us, probably really missing our families and wishing we could be with them. But I happened to think about my daughter who was about the age that I was when this town and this country was calling out for the best in people, asking them to bring out what is the best in America by joining the Peace Corps. I did that.

In the Peace Corps I lived as minority in another land, and I learned the greatness of the United States. Incredible to see how much we can do around the world. And I knew then that I was going to enter a political career to try to right wrongs and make life better.

Here we are, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the 105th session, and I look back, and I think, oh my God, how mean has this country gotten? How mean is their right-wing leadership in their party? They want to take away public education and privatize it, remove the safety net. They want to make Social Security neither social, nor secure. They want to have people in their medical careers have to deal with insurance companies rather than doctors.

I plead with my colleagues to get away from the meanness. Go back to the dreams of America. We can cure a lot.

#### WAG THE DOG

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it would be really helpful if we did not attack each others motives. I do not consider myself a mean person. I consider myself like other Members of this body on both sides, deeply committed to the issues we believe in, and we confuse the American people because they do not understand what is going on right now. They look at this and say this looks a lot like the NBA strike lockout where we have people on both sides with strong differences of opinions. But they are adults; why can they not sit down?

Obviously we both care about education. We differ how to do it. We obviously both care about health care. We disagree how to do it. We obviously both want to see a form of government; in this case some of us are more local than state-oriented and some are more federal, but it is not that we are not trying to do a good government.

In 1995, actually right after the 1994 elections, we had a historic point in American history. For 40 years we had had a Democratic Congress, and all of a sudden we had a conservative Republican Congress and a liberal Democratic President, and we had those passions on both sides tested, and we went through this before. This is now our fourth time. There is no reason that we cannot come to an agreement unless there is another political reason, unless there is a wag-the-dog problem going on right now where the President is trying to distract attention.

We know he feels passionately, we feel passionately. Let us be adults and get it resolved.

#### WITH A \$500-PER-CHILD TAX CREDIT THIS IS A DO-SOMETHING CONGRESS

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, the fact that Congress does not pass a lot of laws does not mean it is a do-nothing Congress. Did my colleagues ever stop to realize that a Congress that passes a lot of laws is the same one that passes a lot of regulations? Creates more programs? More bureaucrats? Evidently to some people on the other side, they think that that is a productive Congress.

But, as my colleagues know, for every family in the United States beginning this year that has a child under 17 year old the parents will be able to keep \$400 more of their taxes, and after that, \$500 more of their taxes, a \$500 child credit. We Republicans believe the American people know how to spend their hard-earned dollars a lot better than the United States Congress. With a \$500 per child tax credit, they can keep that as opposed to paying taxes. That is a do-something Congress.